

Racial & Ethnic Equity Commission
Draft Minutes of Meeting
July 13, 2023, 6:00 pm Kenosha County Job Center

Committee Members Present: Brian Gonzales, Xavier Solis, Alayna Arrington, Cortney Marshall, Duane O’Keefe, Andy Berg (6:05pm).

Excused: Elizabeth Garcia, Justin Crosby, Alayna Arrington

Others Present: Jennifer Kopp, Clara Tappa

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call –Chair Solis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with roll call.

6:01 PM

2. Approval of Minutes- June 15, 2023. **Minutes Moved by Supervisor Brian Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Brian Gonzales. All Aye Motion Carried.**

6:02 PM

3. Citizens Comments – Comments limited to 3 minutes. Comments made by:

Veronica King- Offers suggestions on the names they could change the award if they desire.

P. Clark Taylor- Renaming the award one year after the award is created is appalling. She urges the Commission to maintain the same name.

Heidi Helgeson- Has not received a response on her systemic racism data request. Asks for her response to be put on the August Agenda.

Yolanda Adams- She was a member of the Racial Equity Taskforce, spending months setting this Commission up with great hopes for this Commission. She does not agree with changing the name of the award. This Commission wasn’t tasked with that.

Sue Grace Krokosz- Appreciates that there are two meetings this month.

Raymond Roberts- States he quotes Attorney Solis.

Disruption Occurs.

Chairman Solis stops the meeting to correct the behavior of the Commission and the Citizens. Atty Jennifer Kopp steps in to clarify the argument at hand.

Raymond Roberts continued- He feels that the renaming of the award is not for the greater good of the community.

Tamara Weber -Thanks the Commission for showing up tonight for a special meeting.

6:30 PM

4. Discussion and possible action on renaming the Jennie Tunkieicz Award For Gender And Racial Equity: Chair Solis opens this topic up for discussion. Supervisor Thomas inquires the reasoning behind a special meeting to discuss this issue versus discussing it at the regularly scheduled meeting. Chair Solis clarified he wanted the next meeting to spend all the time on the data from the Arrest Records and to schedule a listening session. Chair Solis' intention is not to rid the award, but perhaps to pass a resolution for the County Executive to change the name of the award.

Clara Tappa explains the history of the Executive Order and the name behind it.

Supervisor Thomas feels the name of the award is appropriate.

Supervisor Berg does not feel this was a time sensitive agenda item as the nomination forms were already sent out for the Jennie Tunkieicz Award For Gender And Racial Equity. He feels it is fair to look at this at a later date as this year's award will be the Jennie Tunkieicz Award For Gender And Racial Equity.

Commissioner Gonzales has some name suggestions: Samantha Kerkman (the first female County Executive elected in Kenosha County), Flo Schipper (first female Deputy hired in Kenosha County), Blanco Aquino (gave up his life in the line of duty) as well as the additional names brought up in Citizen's Comments. **Commissioner Gonzales makes a motion to delay giving out the award until it can be researched and renamed. Commissioner O'Keefe seconded.**

Chair Solis encourages the Commission to research the names provided and have the research for the next potential meeting.

Clara confirms that July 28th the nominations are due.

Supervisor Thomas does not feel that the award should not be halted due to the name change.

Supervisor Berg does not agree with pushing back awarding this award. He feels that the process should move forward with the name as is and then discuss changing the name for next year's award.

Commissioner Gonzales clarifies that only the County Executive can change the name of the award.

Supervisor Thomas- Nay

Supervisor Berg- Nay

Okeefe- Aye

Marshal- Aye

Gonzales- Aye

Solis- Aye

Motion Carries.

7:54 PM

9. Future Scheduling: Next meeting July 20th at 6:00 PM will be at the Kenosha County Administration Building.

7:04 PM

10. Adjourn- Supervisor Thomas makes a motion to adjourn, Supervisor Berg seconded. All Aye.
Motion Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Peralta**